GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5232
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
UPGRADATION OF MIGS
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Russian programme to upgrade the Indian Air Force`s MIG-21 BIS fighters is running behind schedule by 18 months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time schedule of the programme, framed initially;

(d) the total MIG-21 that are being upgraded;

(e) the total cost of expenditure involved in upgradation of each of the MIG-21; and

(f) the time by which the upgraded MIG-21 is likely to be tested?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (f): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5232 27.4.2000.

There has been a delay in the programme of upgrade of MIG-21 BiS fighters mainly because of the complex task involved of integration of systems of Western, Indian and Russian origin in the aircraft. Delays have occurred in the programme in the design and development phase in Russia, due to customs related problems in Russia, problems relating to development and supply of Indian systems and integration of some Western systems, and also due to problems relating to development of some of the Russian systems. As per the original schedule, the design and development phase of the programme was to be completed in August, 1998 and serial production of the upgraded aircraft at HAL in India, was to start in the year 2002. The present position of the programme is that the final phase of flight testing of upgraded aircraft is in progress in Russia. All flight tests and other related tasks are likely to be completed by September, 2000.

2. A total of 125 MIG-21 BiS aircraft are planned to be upgraded under this programme at a total estimated cost of US $ 626 million.